

REMINISCENCES  
OF FIRST  
INAUGURAL ADD.

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FIRST INAUGURAL

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# Late Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865

## First Inaugural Reminiscences

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

### **The Inaugural in Philadelphia.**

PHILADELPHIA, March 5.

The papers generally view the Inaugural as a mild, though firm, expression of lofty manliness and statesmanship.

The *Pennsylvania*, on the contrary, calls it discreditable and unworthy of the President; a weak declaration of war against the seceded States, a tiger's claw concealed under the fur of Sewardism.

### **The Georgia Commissioner before the Missouri Convention.**

St. Louis, March 4.

Commissioner Glenn, of Ga., spoke in the Convention to-day and strongly urged Missouri to join in the Southern Confederacy. His remarks were received with hisses and hootings from the lobby, which the Chairman failed to suppress.

### **For Europe.**

Boston, March 5.

The steamship *America* sails to-morrow for Halifax and Liverpool, at 9 A. M. The mails close at 6:30.

### **Local Election.**

Barn, Me., March 5.

Israel Putnam, Rep., was re-elected for Mayor yesterday by 636 over all opposition.

Thirty-four guns were fired in honor of President Lincoln.

### **The Inaugural in Hartford.**

HARTFORD, March 5.

A national salute was fired in this city yesterday afternoon, in honor of Mr. Lincoln's Inauguration. The Inaugural gives great satisfaction to the Republicans, and many leading Democrats do not hesitate to speak well of it. They like the straight-forward, manly tones, and the assurance that it gives that the government will be firmly administered, and the Union of all the States preserved.

### **Geneva Charter Election—Democratic Victory.**

GENEVA, March 5.

At the charter election held in this village, the Democrats were successful on their entire ticket, with one exception. Average Democratic majority 120.

### **The Inaugural in Buffalo.**

BUFFALO, March 5.

Lincoln's inaugural gives universal satisfaction to the Democrats as well as the Republicans.

### **How the Message was Received by the Dissatisfied States.**

MONTGOMERY, March 4.

Lincoln's inaugural is considered here a declaration of war. Miss Grand raised a flag on the Capitol to-day with three stripes red—white, and red—with a Union blue field and seven stars.

The Southern Confederation intend to lay an import duty of \$100 a head on negroes, which it is expected will force the Border States to secede from the Union.

### **From Washington.**

Special Dispatches to the New York Tribune

WASHINGTON, March 4.

#### **THE CABINET.**

The Cabinet appointments are not yet announced, etiquette requiring a little time to be given to the retiring members.

The closing sentence of the inaugural "upset the watering pot" of many of his hearers, and at this point alone did the melodious voice of the President elect falter.

#### **THE SARDINIAN MISSION.**

The most prominent applicant for the Sardinian Mission is Carl Shurz, the eloquent German speaker of Wisconsin.

#### **IN THE DUST.**

The dust was stifling as the procession neared the White house. The President, Marshal, and subaltern, the swells and populace, were alike enveloped in it. One could have written a certificate of good behavior on the back of President Lincoln's coat as he entered the House.

### **AT THE WHITE HOUSE.**

On entering, he was conducted to the Blue room, when, after an introduction to the marshals, aids, and officials, the public were admitted. Thirty-two little girls, with wreaths about their heads, and bearing little blue flags, were introduced individually, and audibly kissed by the President. The hap of one catching in the President's waistcoat button, caused much merriment and some difficulty to disentangle.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7. 1861.

BY TELEGRAPH

TO THE

BOSTON DAILY EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE TRANSCRIPT.]

MR. CRITTENDEN'S NOMINATION TO  
THE SUPREME BENCH.

THE BOSTON COLLECTORSHIP.

TRAITORS NOT SAFE IN WASHINGTON.

MR. DOUGLAS AND THE INAUGURAL.

WASHINGTON, Thursday noon.

Mr. Crittenden has not yet determined to accept a seat on the Supreme Bench. It is understood that the secessionists and ultra republicans will vote against his confirmation. His approval of the Dred Scott decision is urged against him by the republicans.

The National Intelligencer criticises the Inaugural and says the paragraph on the Judiciary results from a confusion of ideas in regard to the subject.

An enormous petition, signed by citizens of Massachusetts, reached here this morning, asking for the appointment of Geo. W. McLellan as Collector of Boston.

It is reported here that Lieut. Gov. Goodrich will receive the appointment of Collector for the Boston district, and that Mr. McLellan will accept an office in Washington.

Mr. Browne, the Briton, who formerly edited the Constitution newspaper, and now Assistant Secretary of State to the Southern Confederacy, arrived here yesterday, but hearing that he was to be arrested left immediately.

The Southern Commissioners held a conference today with Senator Wigfall.

Mr. Douglas's defence of the Inaugural is very gratifying to the Union men here.

A large batch of nominations has gone to the Senate today. Conflicting rumors are current in regard to the Sardinian mission.

The Traveller has a special dispatch from Washington, from which these items are taken:

It is understood that Gen. Scott has two light draught steamers ready to start at an hour's notice to take supplies or reinforcements to Fort Sumter. They are probably the Mohican and Pawnee.

Some of the naval officers have volunteered to lead the expedition, and will return all the compliments that may be received from the shore batteries.

A circular was recently addressed by our government to foreign powers, protesting against any acknowledgment of the government of the Southern Confederacy.

Senator Douglas expresses the belief that the President has the nerve to determine what is right, platform or no platform, and believing him to have the brain and heart of a patriot, he shall stand by him.

Andrew Johnson says he does not want anything more satisfactory to take Tennessee with him than Cowin's joint resolutions.

The President will probably nominate Major Anderson today, as successor to Gen. Twiggs, though Col. Sumner has been pressed for the place by his friends.

Mr. Lincoln was asked whether he felt at all frightened while delivering his inaugural address, the threats of assassination having been so numerous. He replied "that he had no such sensation, and that he had often experienced much greater fear in addressing a dozen Western men on the subject of temperance."

3/15/21  
A Cincinnati paper says that at the inauguration, Mr. Lincoln's hat being in danger, Mr. Douglas said "permit me, sir," and gallantly took the vexatious article and held it during the entire reading of the inaugural! He must have reflected pretty seriously during that half hour, that instead of delivering an inaugural address from that portico, he was holding the hat of the man who was doing it.

A former resident of New England whose on-

BOSTON ADV

The following incident of Lincoln's first inauguration is told by the *St. Louis Republican*:

"When the President elect came forward upon the platform prepared at the east front of the Capitol his natural embarrassment was increased by a gorgeous wardrobe, in which it was evident he felt exceedingly uncomfortable. The stiff dress-coat, vest, and pantaloons of black broadcloth were enough of themselves to disturb his equanimity, but to these were added other incumbrances in the shape of a brand-new silk hat and a poudorous gold-headed cane. The cane he managed to put away in a corner, but the disposition of the hat perplexed him. It was too good to throw away, too nice to rest upon the rough boards, so, for a minute, Lincoln stood in the gaze of assembled thousands, grasping the hat desperately, and seeking in vain for a safe place to deposit it. Douglas, who sat immediately in the rear, saw the embarrassment of his rival, and, rising, took the shining beaver from its sorely bothered owner, and held it during the delivery of the inaugural address."



# LINCOLN AT HIS FIRST INAUGURAL

PROF. SHEPHERD TELLS OF  
THE EVENT.

A Man of Deep and Rugged Personality—Though of Southern Sympathies, Prof. Shepherd Was Deeply Impressed—Went 113 Miles to Inaugural—What Lincoln Thought of the Song of the South.

Prof. Henry E. Shepherd, well known for his connection for many years with the Baltimore public schools, was an eyewitness to the first inauguration of President Lincoln and managed by dint of youthful persistency to worm his way through the vast crowds in front of the Capitol until he was close to the "martyred president." He related the story of that incident and several other reminiscences a day or two ago. Professor Shepherd has retired from public life, but is actively engaged in the duties of authorship in his home, 1707 North Calvert street.

"I was a boy of 16 years and a student at the University of Virginia on March 2, 1861," he said, "when the idea entered heads of about 100 of us youngsters take the trip from Charlottesville to Washington, 113 miles away, to witness the inauguration. We took French leave, reaching Alexandria on the evening of March 3, and as there was then no railroad connection with Washington, we made the journey by boat. Washington was densely crowded with persons anxious to witness the inauguration of the first Republican president. I managed to get a room in a boarding-house, but through a window being kept open all night I contracted a bad cold and narrowly escaped diphtheria. The next day, however, I managed to get into the front rank of the vast audience gathered to witness the inauguration ceremonies and so placed myself that I could look Lincoln squarely in the face. I saw many noted men of the time, notably James Buchanan, the retiring president; Gen. Winfield Scott and Roger B. Taney. I listened intently to every word Lincoln uttered. My recollection of him is very vivid, despite the onward march of the years. He looked like all the pictures of him—a tall, gawky, rawboned individual, with a very sad expression upon his face. His address impressed me deeply. Southern as I was then and am now in sentiment, having been born in Fayetteville, N. C., where my forebears have lived for 150 years, and therefore not in sympathy with Lincoln or his ideas, I could not fail, however, to be deeply interested in his address, because of the deep and rugged personality of the man.

## What Lincoln Said.

"Lincoln spoke with deep earnestness and fervor. His diction was forceful and strong and revealed to me the fact that he was a man of careful and deep research and apparently a student of such a writer as John Bunyan. He had his manuscript before him, but seemed to know his remarks by heart. He made only one gesture throughout his oration, the rest of the time his arms hanging loosely by his side. When he uttered the sentence: 'No state has the right to secede,' he brought his clenched fist down with a resounding thump upon the table. The words I have just quoted as uttered by Lincoln are verbatim, and not, as has often been published in histories or elsewhere, as 'No state may lawfully withdraw from the Union.' He did not make such a qualified expression. The exact phraseology is as I have given it.

Numerous reports of that speech give the substance of the phrase, but not the correct phraseology, which is as I have quoted it. When Lincoln reached that part of his address, the vast throng was spellbound and not a sound was heard for a moment. Then suddenly a man in the crowd yelled: 'We are for Jeff Davis.' There was no disorder, however, and Lincoln proceeded with his address. I was even then opposed to the doctrines laid down by Lincoln, and soon after enlisted in the Confederate Army and fought

throughout the war against the Union, but I could not fail to be impressed by the strong personality of the man who spoke as though he had a message to deliver.

That night (March 4, 1861) I attended Ford's Theater, the same place where Lincoln was to meet his death four years later. The house was jammed to the doors and the orchestra alternated in playing Northern and Southern airs, in which the adherents of each side took turns in vociferously cheering for their respective sides. I was also one of a large party of students who attempted to rush the chamber of the House of Representatives. A number of us did get past the doorkeepers and succeeded in reaching one of the galleries, but we were unceremoniously ejected. That was the first and last inauguration I ever witnessed, and the only time I ever saw Lincoln.

Throughout the interregnum strife we in the South were in constant receipt of newspapers from the North, and in one of them I well remember reading that Lincoln at the time of the battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, was reported to have said that whatever the issue of the war, he would not survive it. This showed convincingly that Lincoln had a clearly defined presentiment of his end.

## What Lincoln Thought of "Dixie."

A few days ago the newspapers printed an article to the effect that the Chicago School Board had refused to permit the singing of "Dixie" in the public schools there on Lincoln's centenary. Now, it is not generally known that Lincoln liked that song. Shortly after the capture of Richmond by the Union Army, on April 2, 1865, Lincoln visited City Point, Va., and there met Mrs. Pickett, wife of the General Pickett who led the charge at Gettysburg. During his conversation with Mrs. Pickett Lincoln remarked to his attorney general: "I want you to confiscate 'Dixie' for use by the federal government." I contend that this effectually discloses that Lincoln had no opposition to the song, and would not have concurred in any movement to prohibit its use.

When Lincoln made a tour of the Gettysburg battlefield and closely scanned Culp's Hill, Cemetery Ridge and the other hills, he remarked: "I am proud to be the countrymen of the men who assailed those heights."

Professor Shepherd served in three commands during the war—First North Carolina, Thirty-seventh North Carolina and the Forty-third North Carolina—all infantry regiments. He was desperately wounded at Gettysburg, and carries to this day the indentation of a minie ball in his knee, through which the missile passed, wounding him also in the calf of other leg.



# **Weston Hiked to Lincoln's Inauguration**

Edward Payson Weston, the great heel-and-toe walker, who died recently at the age of 90, accomplished his first great feat as a pedestrian when Lincoln was inaugurated. He hiked from Boston to Washington to see the inaugural ceremonies. It was after that he took to making a business of his walking abilities.

He accomplished his outstanding hikes in 1909, when he walked from New York to San Francisco, 3,895 miles in 104 days and seven hours. The following year he returned over a route of 3,600 miles, in 76 days and 23 hours.

N Y BRONX HOME NEWS  
AUGUST 12, 1929

## *Lincoln's First Inauguration Recalled By Mrs. M. V. Hobbs*

As Child Of Four She Was  
Taken To Washington  
On Rainy, Dreary Day.  
Pinned Rose On His  
Coat

A 74-year-old woman, the light of recollection in her eyes, told last night of her meeting with Abraham Lincoln back in 1861, when she was a child of 4.

It was at the Civil War President's first inauguration, and the little girl, now Mrs. Mary Virginia Hobbs, had been taken from Baltimore to Washington by her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Rea.

### **Day Dreary And Rainy**

"It was a dreary, rainy day," said Mrs. Hobbs, "and I remember clearly standing in the street, clinging to my aunt and uncle, who took me to Washington for the inauguration. I cried, but through my tears I could see Lincoln wearing a white hat that seemed to have fur on it and a broad black band.

"That night my aunt and uncle took me to the inaugural ball. I was the youngest child there. My uncle took me to Lincoln, held me in his arms as he introduced me and I pinned a rose on the President's coat.

"I remember it all so well!"

### **Remembers Troops In City**

"Later, when the war started, I recall being at a Methodist Church on the corner of Charles and Fayette streets the Sunday the Federal troops marched into the city, and rioting



MRS. MARY V. HOBBS

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*The Mystery of*  
"A PUBLIC MAN"

A HISTORICAL DETECTIVE STORY

BY

Frank Maloy Anderson

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house. I could not help observe the place, and the slovenly manner in which the papers were kept waiting but a moment. Lincoln quite alone. He was struck and pained by the fact that the diary was scarcely left it during the night, in a few words, why — then fully explained the situation at Fort Sumter. He did not take the President's name — two or three times Major Anderson's ideas as to the situation; and, when — told me as to the lantern, Mr. Lincoln sat quite still in the same way, and then, looking at Major Anderson is a good sign that he is right it will be a bad sign if he goes out of Fort Sumter House." We could not see the case, but the President soon on the President's desk — some questions very relevant or important were asked into the corridor and thanked — for what — for a moment and asked his hand as he spoke with his shoulder, "You haven't a pocket, have you?" — thought a little in alarm, and sanity, when Mr. Lincoln said of unnatural that you have your pocket. Everybody ministers, and collectors, but have got in here without your pocket!" We assured him of the point, and left the house, only did, more anxious and only one word had Mr. Lincoln

said to throw any real light either on his own views of the situation or on the effect of —'s communication upon those views. But it was plain that he is deeply disturbed and puzzled by the problem of this wretched fort, to which circumstances are giving an importance so entirely disproportionate to its real significance, either political or military.

In addition to these interviews, highly significant if genuine, the Diary contains three interesting anecdotes about Lincoln. For two of these the Diary is the sole source. None of them, save one, is supported by any other contemporaneous evidence.

The most famous of these tells how Stephen A. Douglas held Lincoln's hat while Lincoln was delivering his first inaugural address. In describing the scene at the inauguration the Diarist, after remarking that neither Buchanan nor Lincoln appeared to advantage and that Chief Justice Taney could hardly speak plainly, went on to say:

I must, however, except Senator Douglas, whose conduct can not be overpraised. I saw him for a moment in the morning, when he told me that he meant to put himself as prominently forward in the ceremonies as he properly could, and to leave no doubt on any one's mind of his determination to stand by the new Administration in the performance of its first great duty to maintain the Union. I watched him carefully. He made his way not without difficulty—for there was literally no sort of order in the arrangements—to the front of the throng directly beside Mr. Lincoln, when he prepared to read the address. A miserable little rickety table had been provided for the President, on which he could hardly find room for his hat, and Senator Douglas, reaching forward, took it with a smile and held it during the delivery of the address. It was a trifling act, but a symbolical one, and not to be forgotten, and it attracted much attention all around me.

Two days before the inauguration, the Diarist, if he can be trusted, put on record a remarkably interesting and significant episode:

There can be no doubt about it any longer. This man from Illinois is not in the hands of Mr. Seward. Heaven grant that he

# The Diary of a Public Man

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## UNPUBLISHED PASSAGES OF THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR\*

(As a contribution to what may be called the interior history of the American Civil War, the editor of the "North American Review" takes great pleasure in laying before his readers a series of extracts from the diary of a public man intimately connected with the political movement of those dark and troubled times. He is not permitted to make public the whole of this diary, and he has confined his own editorial supervision of it to formulating under proper and expressive headings the incidents and events referred to in the extracts which have been put at his service. When men still living, but not now in the arena of politics, are referred to, it has been thought best to omit their names, save in two or three cases which will explain themselves; and, in regard to all that is set down in the diary, the editor has a firm conviction that the author of it was actuated by a single desire to state things as they were, or at least as he had reason at the time to believe that they were. Those who are most familiar with the true and intimate history of the exciting times covered by this diary will be the most competent judges of the general fidelity and accuracy of this picture of them; nor can it be without profit for the young men of the present generation to be thus brought face to face, as it were, with the doubts, the fears, the hopes, the passions, and the intrigues through which the great crisis of 1861 was reached. It is always a matter of extreme delicacy to decide upon the proper moment at which private memorials of great political epochs should see the light. If there is danger by a premature publicity of wounding feelings which should be sacred, there is danger also in delaying such publications until all those who

\*The Diary is reprinted in the following pages exactly as it originally appeared in the *North American Review*. The first installment was printed in the August issue, 1879 (Vol. 129, pp. 125-40).



large owner of steamers which the Government would need to charter if there was to be a war or even a large warlike demonstration. I lost my patience a little with this, and told promptly that, if these were the motives of his New York friend, Mr. Seward deserved credit for putting him off with a recommendation to buy ball-tickets, but he came back at me triumphantly with the dispatch to Montgomery which his New York friend had secured at the end of a second visit to Mr. Seward, as a decisive sign of the peaceful prospect before us, and which he finally took away, saying that he would send it.

#### THE MILITARY INAUGURATION OF MR. LINCOLN

*Washington, March 4th.*—I am sure we must attribute to the mischievous influence of the Blairs the deplorable display of perfectly unnecessary, and worse than unnecessary, military force which marred the inauguration to-day, and jarred so scandalously upon the tone of the inaugural. Nothing could have been more ill-advised or more ostentatious than the way in which the troops were thrust everywhere upon the public attention, even to the roofs of the houses on Pennsylvania Avenue, on which little squads of sharpshooters were absurdly stationed. I never expected to experience such a sense of mortification and shame in my own country as I felt to-day, in entering the Capitol through hedges of marines armed to the teeth. —, of Massachusetts, who felt as I did—indeed, I have yet to find a man who did not—recalled to me, as we sat in the Senate-chamber, the story of old Josiah Quincy, the President of Harvard College, who, having occasion to visit the Boston court-house during one of the fugitive-slave excitements in that city, found the way barred by an iron chain. The sentinels on duty recognized him, and stooped to raise the chain, that he might pass in, but the old man indignantly refused, and turned away, declaring that he would never pass into a Massachusetts court-house by the favor of armed men or under a chain. It is really amazing that General Scott should have consented to preside over such a pestilent and foolish parade of force at this time, and I can only attribute his doing so to the agitation in which he is kept by the constant pressure upon him from Virginia, of which I heard only too much to-day from —, who returned yesterday from Richmond. Fortunately, all passed off well, but it is appalling to think of the

mischievous which might have been done by a single evil-disposed person to-day. A blank cartridge fired from a window on Pennsylvania Avenue might have disconcerted all our hopes, and thrown the whole country into inextricable confusion.

That nothing of the sort was done, or even so much as attempted, is the most conclusive evidence that could be asked of the groundlessness of the rumors and old women's tales on the strength of which General Scott has been led into this great mistake. Even without this the atmosphere of the day would have been depressing enough. It has been one of our disagreeable, clear, windy, Washington spring days. The arrangements within the Capitol were awkward, and very ill attended to. No one was at his ease. Neither Mr. Buchanan nor Mr. Lincoln appeared to advantage. Poor Chief-Justice Taney could hardly speak plainly, in his uncontrollable agitation.



